Oswald 11th dist - 1/4

JFK assassination records appeals - New Orleans
Records not searched or provided - William Gaudet
Oswald's literature distributions

Harold Weisberg 12/3/80

In earlier appeals I have alleged that the FBI has and has not searched for pertinent records it merely kept out of its main files. The ~~exempt~~ subjects of such withholdings include Oswald's career and activities in NewOrleans his possible associations, other executive agencies and what most people would presume to be minimal investigative needs.

William George Gaudet had served the CIA. He also was next to Oswald in line when Oswald obtained his visa to enter Mexico. The FBI, contrary to its present posturings, disclosed Gaudet's CIA connection at the time it OKed disclosure of records it provided to the Warren Commission. While the Commission did not elect to publish the FBI record disclosing Gaudet's CIA connection, it did publish an FBI record stating that Jack Ruby had purchased a painting from one Larry Borenstein, inferring some kind of red political taint to Ruby thereby. Larry Borenstein is reputedly the nephew of the late Leon Trotsky (Bronstein).

Among the readily available records that attracted my attention years ago are FBI reports indicating that it had spoken to him at virtually the same time the day of the assassination but attributing his whereabouts to both New Orleans and Waveland, Miss. Gaudet could not have been at both places at the same time and it would appear that the FBI should not have been unaware of the strange nature of its reportings.

Gaudet wrote an article for the Biloxi, Miss. Sun/Daily Herald of 11/22/80, the commemoration date of the assassination. It is attached.

From the records provided to me it would appear that the FBI had no interest in the fact that someone other than Gaudet allegedly phoned it to provide misleading and deceptive information. This appears to be improbable.

No record has been provided indicating that Gaudet was interviewed about Oswald's literature distributions, yet is is and for some years has been apparent that Gaudet had knowledge and no reluctance to talk about them. While in this article Gaudet is

inhibited by space limitations, on other occasions he referred to having seen Oswald and others picketing outside the International Trade Mart (run by the late Clay Shaw) on more than the one officially-publicized occasion.

It may interest you to know that under the name of his publication, Latin American Reports, Gaudet had offices in the Trade Mart building (ITM). Outside of New Orleans Latin American Reports had offices where other CIA fronts, proprietaries and/or assets also were housed. The circulation of Gaudet's publication was never sufficient to pay for his office space alone.

If the FBI had really investigated Oswald's literature distribution and other activities with a view to learning more than it already knew it would not easily have avoided interviewing Gaudet about them. It also does not appear to be likely that a man with Gaudet's background and prejudices would not have volunteered to the FBI what he has without reluctance conveyed to subsequent interviewers. However, no such information is included in any of the records provided.

Supposedly, as my earlier appeals detail, the FBI was looking for another and not publicly identified Oswald associate. This also should have led it to Gaudet.

Earlier records, including those of the FBI, reflect the fact that on the day of his ITM picketing that got him on local TV, Oswald had more than one associate. I also attach an Archives copy of the Secret Service wrapper for the MMSU film (subject of my ignored 1969 request) which is explicit in stating that there was another such Oswald associate who remains unidentified.

No records have been accounted for as withheld either under claim to classification or as referrals.

The kinds of information not provided are well within the assigned responsibilities of the FBI. I do not assume that it did not do its job. It therefore seems to be apparent that it has and withholds pertinent information, including by avoiding searches of the proper files and indices.